Introduction to the Study of Language

COURSE SYLLABUS

LING/ANTH 200 **Rice University** **Fall 2014**

Meeting time and place: MWF 11a-noon, HRG 100

Instructor: Chris Taylor
Email: sastre@rice.edu
Office hours: Wed 11a-noon, and by appointment
Office: HRG 204 (TA office: HRG 127)

Course Description:
This course explores the complexities of language, a fascinating and fundamental human characteristic that touches virtually every aspect of human life. Located at the crossroads of the sciences and the humanities, linguistics is a highly interdisciplinary field with connections to anthropology, sociology, social psychology, physics, cognitive science, neuroscience, physiology, literature, history, computer science, speech technology, speech pathology, and many other topics.

In this course, we investigate many facets of language: how words are related to each other, what word meaning reveals about the mind (lexical and cognitive semantics), how words are constructed from smaller parts (morphology), and the structure of sentences (syntax). We examine the sounds of language, including the physiology of speech sounds and the vocal tract (articulatory phonetics), and how speech sounds are organized systematically (phonology). We also study language variation and change (sociolinguistics and historical linguistics), including the relationship between language, society and individual speech choices, and the systematic ways in which languages change over time.

Teaching Assistants:
You will be assigned to a Teaching Assistant (TA), based on the initial letters of your last name. You will have the same TA throughout the semester, so your TA will be able to get to know you and your work. Your TA will be grading your assignments and exams, and he or she should be your first point of contact for questions and concerns. You are welcome to come to any TA's office hours, whether or not you are assigned to that particular TA. You are also always welcome to come to my office hours as well.

Homework:
There are eight homework assignments over the course of the semester for this class. Late homework will not be accepted, except in rare circumstances (*e.g.,* a documented medical emergency). Homework must be submitted in hard copy at the beginning of class on the day it is due.

Exams:
There are two exams for this course: a midterm and a final. The Final Exam will be comprehensive. Make-up exams will be given only under special circumstances and only if arrangements are made with the instructor beforehand. If you miss an exam without having made arrangements with the instructor beforehand, you will receive a score of zero on that exam.

Honor Code:
Appropriating someone else's work and portraying it as your own is cheating. Attempting to gain an unfair advantage over your classmates by obtaining answers to homework problems or tests from previous semesters is cheating. Falsifying data or results is cheating. (The foregoing is not intended to be a complete list. A complete description of Rice's Honor Code, plagiarism, and other general information can be found at the Rice Honor Council Web page at http://honor.rice.edu.) If you are caught cheating, you will be referred to the Honor Council. If you are unsure about whether a specific action is cheating, you may check with your TA or the instructor. Some general guidelines are:
Do not look at notes, problems or exams from previous semesters.
Do not seek solutions to problems from other outside sources, including books or the internet.
Do not copy other (current or former) students' homework assignments.

Do not falsify data or other results in your research project.
Do form study groups to talk about readings and lectures and to analyze and work through homework problems. You must, however, write up your homework assignment on your own.
Do cite all sources used (including those found on line), and cite and designate all quotations as such.

Grading:	**Percentage**
8 homework assignments	60%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	15%
Participation	10%
TOTAL	100%

(As=90–100%; Bs=80–89%; Cs=70–79%; Ds=60–69%; F≤59%, with + and – thresholds at the 7s and 3s of each grade, respectively. [e.g., A+ > 97%; A– < 93%; 97% ≤ A ≥ 93%, etc.])

NOTE: If you require course material in an alternative format or need special accommodations due to a disability, please contact the instructor and the Disability Support Services Office (111 Allen Center).

Day	Date	Topic	Reading	Homework Due
M	8/25	Introduction: The study of linguistics		
		I. Sound, Style, and Linguistic Variation		
W	8/27	Variation: Style and social semiotics	1-27	
F	8/29	Phonetics 1: IPA and articulatory phonetics	81-102	
M	9/1	*Labor Day - No class*		
W	9/3	Phonetics 2: More on sound		
F	9/5	Phonetics 3: Acoustic phonetics		
M	9/8	Phonetics 4: IPA Practice		HW1
		II. Structure and Meaning in Language		
W	9/10	Morphology 1	38-49	
F	9/12	Morphology 2	49-68	
M	9/15	Morphology 3		
W	9/17	Phonology 1	111-139	
F	9/19	Phonology 2		HW2
M	9/22	Phonology 3		
W	9/24	Syntax 1	151-176	
F	9/26	Syntax 2		
M	9/29	Syntax 3		
W	10/1	Semantics 1	187-209	
F	10/3	Semantics 2		HW3

M	10/6	Semantics 3		
W	10/8	*In-class review session*		
F	10/10	**MIDTERM EXAM**		
M	10/13	No class: *Midterm Recess*		
W	10/15	Discourse: Overview		HW4
F	10/17	Discourse: Continued		
		III. Linguistic Diversity, History, and Cognition		
M	10/20	Pragmatics & Information Structure	268-288	
W	10/22	Speech acts, conversation, and conventions	302-325	
F	10/24	Language Change: Overview		HW5
M	10/27	Language Change: History of English	Ch.13	
W	10/29	Historical Linguistics	418-433	
F	10/31	Language Universals & Typology	231-255	
M	11/3	Language Attitudes and Social Cognition		
W	11/5	Speech Perception		HW6
		IV. Language Variation, Society, Culture		
F	11/7	Dialects, Sociolects, and Group Dynamics	370-404	
M	11/10	Dialects cont.		
W	11/12	Language Ideologies		
F	11/14	Language and the Semiotics of Inequality		
M	11/17	Performing Ideologies: *The Metapragmatics of Parody*		HW7
W	11/19	Animating Language Ideologies		
F	11/21	Language and Culture		
M	11/24	AA(V)E & Chicano English		
W	11/26	No class: *Thanksgiving*		
F	11/28	No class: *Thanksgiving*		
M	12/1	Language and Gender		
W	12/3	Language, Desire, and Sexuality		HW8
F	12/5	*Course review*		